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Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9493

S E C R E T CAIRO 0982

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LY, EG
SUBJECT: GOE ACTIVITIES VIS A VIS LIBYA

1. THE EGYPTIANS APPEAR AGAIN TO BE ACTIVELY PLANNING TO TRY TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT QADHAAFI. A FEW DAYS AGO, FAHMY, WHEN COMPLAINING ABOUT SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AND WHAT HE CHARGED WAS OUR INATTENTION TO THEM (CAIRO 0677), ALSO SPOKE BRIEFLY OF CONTINUING SOVIET EFFORTS IN LIBYA. IN HIS CUSTOMARY CONFIDENT MANNER, HE STATED GOE QUOTE WILL TAKE CARE OF QADHAAFI END QUOTE AND HAS ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO ACHIEVE THIS. HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

2. IN MY TALK WITH VP MOBAREK TODAY, HE TOO RAISED SUBJECT OF LIBYA AND ALLEGED SOVIET ACTIVITIES THERE. DESCRIBING QADHAAFI AS A QUOTE MAD MAN UNQUOTE, HE STATED EGYPTIAN REPORTS SUGGEST THERE IS GROWING INTERNAL DISSATISFACTION WITH QADHAAFI'S POLICIES. GOE INTENDS TO CAPITALIZE ON THIS DISCONTENT.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT AL-HUNI IS CURRENTLY IN EGYPT. (HE HAS BEEN TRAVELLING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN ROME AND CAIRO.) GOE IS ALSO IN TOUCH WITH TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT TO BRING MUHAISHI HERE. THE LIBYANS ARE OUT TO ASSASSINATE MUHAISHI, BUT TUNISIANS ARE AWARE OF THIS AND HAVE PROVIDED STRONG SECURITY. IN ADDITION, GOE HAS HEARD THAT TWO OF THE PRINCIPAL MILITARY CONSPIRATORS, WHO WERE ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED AFTER RECENT ABORTIVE COUP, HAVE ESCAPED. ONE OF THEM, CAPT OMAR HARIRI, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS ONE OF THE MORE
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PROMINENT OF THE FORMER RCC MEMBERS, IS SUPPOSED TO BE ATTEMPTING TO

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MAKE HIS WAY TO EGYPT. GOE AUTHORITIES ALONG THE BORDER HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TRY TO ASSIST HIM. THE OTHER, WHOSE NAME HE COULD NOT RECALL, HAD FLED IN THE DIRECTION OF TUNISIA, BUT HAD BEEN KILLED. GOE INTENDS TO ANNOUNCE THE LATTER IN NEXT DAY OR TWO.

4. AS MOBAREK SAW IT, IF MUHAISHI, AL-HUNI AND HARIRI ARE HERE, GOE'S CAPACITY TO QUOTE DO SOMETHING UNQUOTE OOUT QADHAAFI WILL BE MATERIALLY ENHANCED. HE ALSO NOTED THAT KHARUWS, WHO REMAINS A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF QADHAAFI AND WHO WARNED THE LATTER ABOUT THE MUHAISHI PLOT, IS ESPECIALLY WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS EGYPT AND REMAINS IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. ALLUDING TO PRESS REPORTS THAT GOE HAD TIPPED OFF KHARUBI ABOUT THE MUHAISHI PLOT, MOBAREK DENIED THAT THIS WAS SO.

5. APART FROM THE ABOVE EFFORT TO ASSEMBLE SOME OF OF THE PROMINENT

EX-RCC MEMBERS IN CAIRO AS A MEANS OF PRESSURE QADHAAFI, MOBAREK DID NOT SPELL OUT WHAT EXACTLY GOE HAS IN MIND. WE UNDERSTAND FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT MUHAISHI HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO COME TO EGYPT. EILTS

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